

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-48 Cancelled

49. (New) A method of preparing a filter construction for use in an air cleaner; the method comprising steps of:

- (a) providing a filter media construction comprising a fluted filter media sheet secured to a facing sheet of filter media with a first seal therebetween against a first side of the facing sheet;
- (b) forming a generally circular coiled configuration by coiling the filter media combination with the facing sheet directed to the outside of the coiled configuration and with a sealant strip, during the coiling, positioned between the fluted filter media sheet and a second side of the facing sheet;
 - (i) the step of forming a coiled configuration comprising providing a resulting generally circular coiled configuration in the form a coreless coil having a central open space;
- (c) distorting the generally circular coiled configuration having a central aperture to a media construction having a racetrack shape;
 - (i) the step of distorting including closing the central open space with sealing of the fluted filter media to itself, by a sealant, to provide a media construction having a racetrack shape with no center core; and,
- (d) positioning a housing seal on the media construction having a racetrack shape with no center core.

50. (New) A method according to claim 49 wherein:

- (a) the step of forming a generally circular coiled configuration comprises coiling the filter media on a hub and then removing a resulting generally circular coiled

configuration from the hub to provide the coreless coil having a central open space.

51. (New) A method according to claim 50 wherein:
(a) the first seal between the fluted media sheet and the facing sheet comprises a sealant strip.

52. (New) A method according to claim 49 wherein:
(a) the sealant strip positioned between the fluted filter media and the second side of the facing sheet is a polyurethane composition that increases in volume during cure.

53. (New) A method according to claim 52 wherein:
(a) the sealant strip positioned between the fluted filter media and the second side of the facing sheet is a polyurethane composition that increases in volume by at least 40% during cure.

54. (New) A method according to claim 49 wherein:
(a) the step of positioning a housing seal comprises positioning a framework on the filter media construction and providing a housing seal on the framework.

55. (New) A method according to claim 49 wherein:
(a) said step of distorting comprises forming at least six interdigitized flutes along a center strip of the z-filter media construction, in the region of the second sealant strip.

56. (New) A method according to claim 49 wherein:
(a) the step of distorting comprising distorting such that the second sealant strip forms a central seal in the coiled construction having a racetrack shape with no center core.

57. (New) A method according to claim 49 including:
(a) adding polyurethane to a space inside of the coreless coil to form the media construction having a racetrack shape.

58. (New) A method according to claim 49 wherein:
(a) providing a foamed polyurethane housing seal gasket secured to the outer surface of the media construction.

59. (New) A method according to claim 49 wherein:
(a) the facing sheet is a non-corrugated sheet.

60. (New) A method according to claim 49 including a step of:
(a) applying the second sealant strip to the fluted sheet before coiling with:
(i) a selected amount of sealant applied a first distance from a nearest edge of the filter media construction at a first location of the filter media construction adjacent a lead edge of the strip;
(ii) a selected amount of sealant applied to a second distance from the nearest edge of the filter media construction in a second location of the filter media construction following the first portion, the first distance being further than the second distance; and,
(iii) a selected amount of sealant applied a location of the filter media construction near a tail end and at a location further from a closest edge than the sealant on the second portion of the filter media construction.

61. (New) A method according to claim 49 wherein:
(a) said step of coiling includes guiding an extension of the filter media construction into a media catch slot of a winding hub and winding the hub to coil the filter media construction.

62. (New) A method according to claim 49 including a step of:
(a) sealing a tail end of the media along its length by a sealant.

63. (New) A method according to claim 62 including a step of:
(a) sealing a tail end of the media along its length by a hot melt sealant.

64. (New) A method according to claim 62 wherein:
(a) the tail end of the media is positioned along a straight side of the media construction having a racetrack shape.

65. (New) A method according to claim 49 including a step of:
(a) mounting a framework on the obround shape coil resulting from the step of distorting.

66. (New) A method according to claim 65 including a step of:
(a) providing a housing seal ring on the framework.

67. (New) A method according to claim 18 wherein:
(a) the step of mounting a framework includes mounting a framework having a plastic cross piece positioned as a face lattice.